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LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to Security Council document S/23315 dated 23 December 1991, through which this month's Chairman of the Group of African States at the United Nations requests you to have circulated the Statement of the General Secretariat of OAU on Report No. S/23299 of the United Nations Secretary-General on Western Sahara, I have the honour to draw your kind attention to the following facts:

1. The Chairman of the Group of African States at the United Nations for the month of December 1991, Mr. Kofi Nyidevu AWOONOR, the Permanent Representative of Ghana, was never authorized by the Group to request on its behalf that the OAU document in question should be circulated. In this connection, it should furthermore be stressed that the African Group was not convened either to discuss the content of the statement or to determine the appropriateness of such action on its behalf.

2. The OAU statement itself claims to convey the position of its "General Secretariat", which as such cannot legally express its views on behalf of the organization of the member States.

The statement reflects even less the point of view of the current President of the Organization of African Unity, who is referred to within the framework of the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and is involved in the peace process concerning the question of the Sahara.

I cannot therefore but deplore the action taken by this month's Chairman of the Group of African States at the United Nations and emphasize that it is merely a personal initiative which does not in any way commit the members of the African Group at the United Nations.

In any event, such actions can only undermine the efforts currently being made by the Secretary-General to bring about a definitive settlement of the question of the Sahara, and wittingly and intentionally create serious confusion in the minds of the recipients.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative